



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

REMARKS

Support for Claim 15 is found on page 11, lines 17-18. Figure 2 illustrates the middle distillate upgrader operating at a lower pressure than the first stage reactor.

Support for Claim 16 is provided in the Table on page 13. Examples are shown of mildly hydrocracked feed which is subsequently subjected to hydrotreating in a middle distillate upgrader such as that of Figure 2. In the case of the vacuum gas oil coker gas oil blend, hydrotreating occurs at 800 psig. Hydrocracking could have occurred in a range from 1300 to 2300 psig, or 500 to 1500 psi higher than the pressure of the second hydroprocessing zone, and been within both the broad and narrower upper ranges for hydrocracking, 5000 psi and 3500 psi, respectively (see page 11, lines 22-23).

In the case of the mild hydrocracked distillate from Middle Eastern Vacuum Gas Oil, hydrotreating occurs at 1900 psig. Hydrocracking could have occurred in a range from 2400 psig to 3400 psig, or 500 to 1500 psi higher than the pressure of the second hydroprocessing zone, and been within both the broad and narrower upper ranges for hydrocracking, 5000 psi and 3500 psi, respectively (see page 11, lines 22-23).

Applicants respectfully request that Claims 15 and 16 be entered and examined during the first office action.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny L. Prater
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,965
(925) 973-4566

PLPrater:jj
January 29, 2002